

# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending March 2, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response  
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

## SUMMARY

During the week ending March 2, 2013, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** with **REGIONAL** geographic spread of influenza. All indicators continue their downward trend. Type B influenza is still predominant.

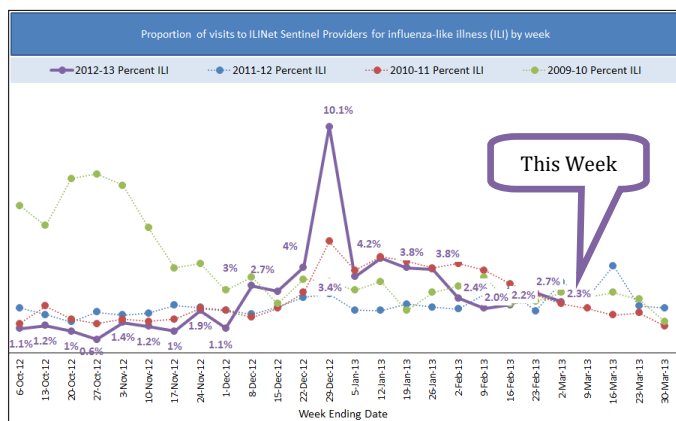
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
Local
✓ Regional
Widespread

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

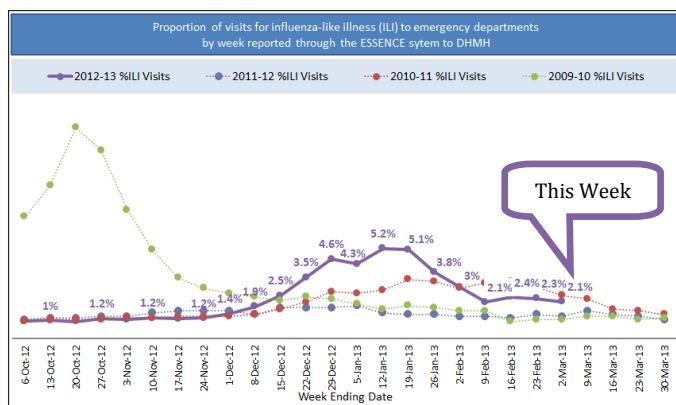
Eleven sentinel providers reported a total of 8,229 visits last week. Of those, 188 (2.3%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of 2.9%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	33 (18%)	41 (20%)	943 (23%)
Age 5-24	90 (48%)	107 (52%)	1,722 (41%)
Age 25-49	48 (26%)	38 (19%)	1,085 (26%)
Age 50-64	10 (5%)	17 (8%)	308 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	7 (4%)	2 (1%)	132 (3%)
<b>Total ILI Visits</b>	<b>188 (100%)</b>	<b>205 (100%)</b>	<b>4,190 (100%)</b>

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 45,507 visits through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 1,056 (2.3%) were visits for ILI.



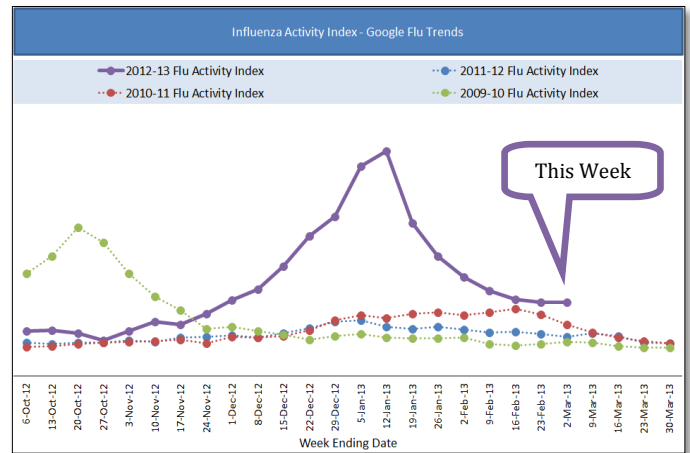
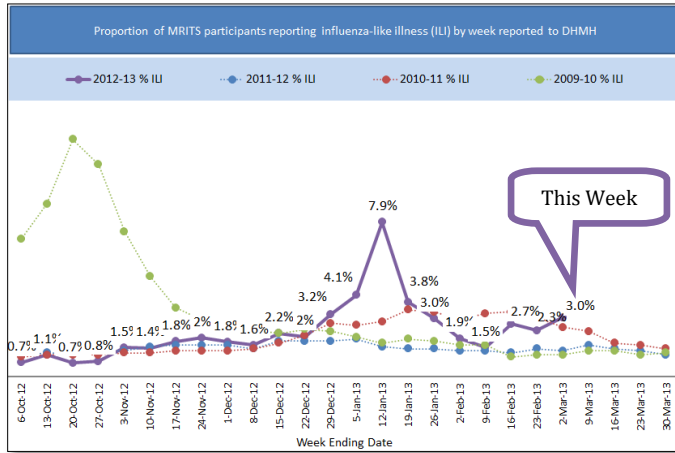
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	216 (21%)	224 (21%)	6,313 (25%)
Age 5-24	246 (24%)	371 (35%)	7,394 (29%)
Age 25-49	344 (34%)	304 (29%)	7,706 (30%)
Age 50-64	168 (16%)	113 (11%)	2,732 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	48 (5%)	45 (4%)	1,383 (5%)
<b>Total ILI Visits</b>	<b>1,022 (100%)</b>	<b>1,056 (100%)</b>	<b>25,528 (100%)</b>

## Neighboring states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>  
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>  
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza\\_flu/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_flu/14161)  
Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>  
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

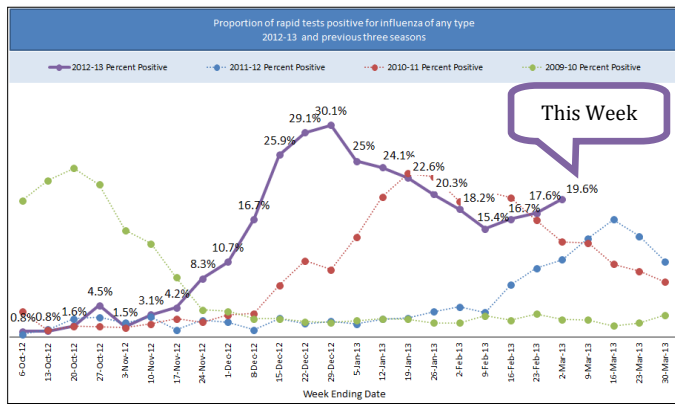
## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

A total of 634 responses to the [weekly flu survey](#) (MRITS) were received. Of those, 19 (3.0%) reported ILI with a cumulative 41 days of regular daily activities lost due to illness. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity continues to be "high" in Maryland.

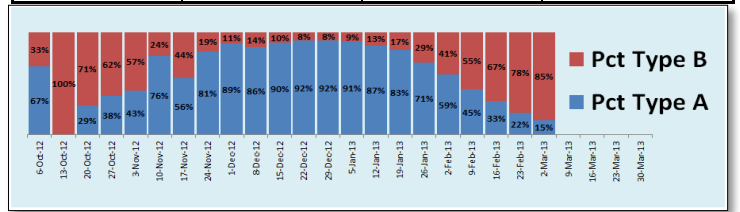


## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-seven clinical laboratories reported 3,578 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 701 (19.6%) were positive. Of those testing positive, 102 were positive for influenza type A, and 599 were positive for type B. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests. Now that the State Laboratories Administration has reported positive PCR tests for influenza, rapid positive tests are counted as lab-confirmed cases for surveillance purposes.)

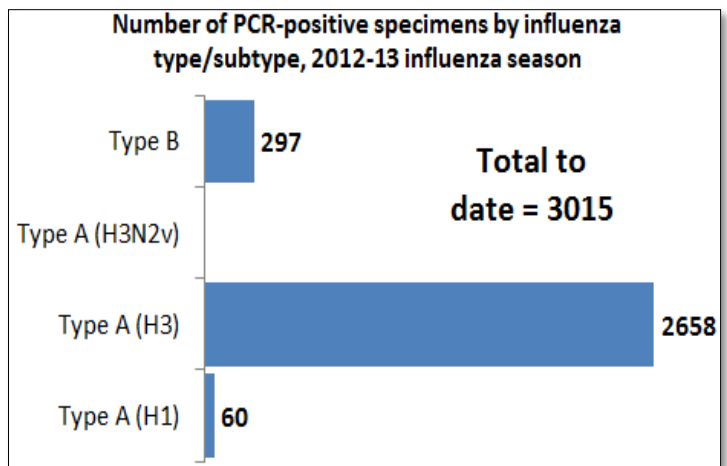
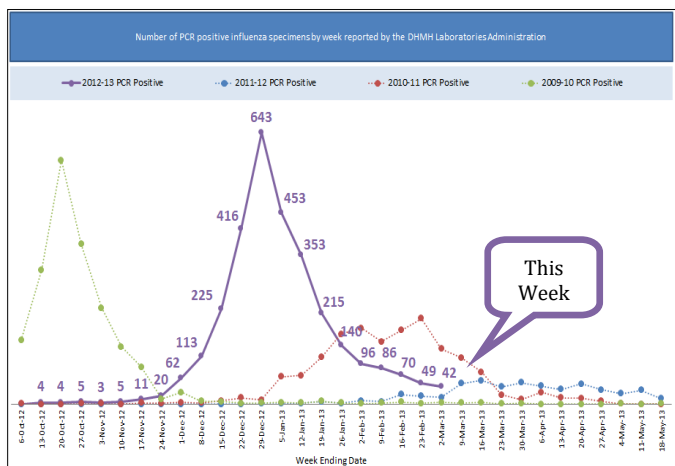


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	102 (15%)	123 (22%)	10,091 (75%)
Type B	599 (85%)	447 (78%)	3,349 (25%)
Total	701 (100%)	570 (100%)	13,440 (100%)



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

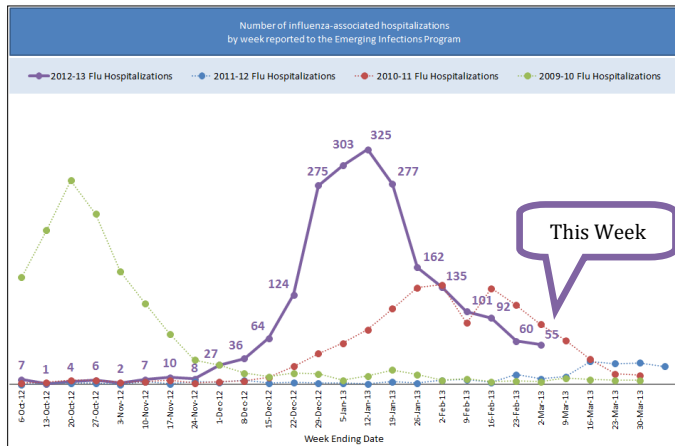
The State Laboratories Administration has reported 3,015 PCR-positive specimens from 5,032 total tests reported this flu season. Of those positives, 2,658 (89%) were type A (H3), 297 (10%) were type B, and 60 (2%) were type A (H1N1). Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.



Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

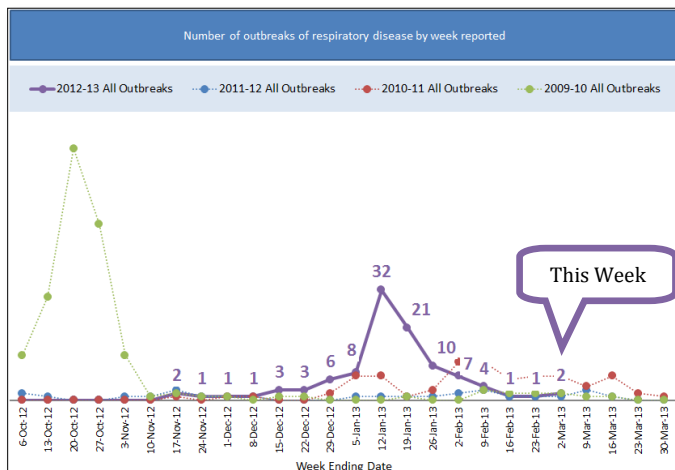
Hospitals in Maryland reported 55 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	11 (20%)	12 (20%)	198 (10%)
Age 5-17	4 (7%)	3 (5%)	89 (4%)
Age 18-24	2 (4%)	2 (3%)	81 (4%)
Age 25-49	12 (22%)	13 (22%)	317 (15%)
Age 50-64	14 (25%)	13 (22%)	375 (18%)
Age ≥ 65	12 (22%)	17 (28%)	1,021 (49%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>55 (100%)</b>	<b>60 (100%)</b>	<b>2,081 (100%)</b>

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

Two outbreaks of influenza type B were reported to DHMH. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	2 (100%)	1 (100%)	76 (74%)
Influenza-like Illness	-- --	-- --	19 (18%)
Pneumonia	-- --	-- --	8 (8%)
Other Respiratory	-- --	-- --	-- --
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 (100%)</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	<b>103 (100%)</b>

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During the week ending March 2, 2013, influenza activity remained elevated in the United States, but decreased in most areas.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 6,259 specimens tested and reported by collaborating laboratories, 1,074 (17.2%) were positive for influenza.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Six pediatric deaths were reported.
- **Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 38.5 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported. Of reported hospitalizations, over 51% were among adults 65 years and older.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.3%. This is above the national baseline of 2.2%. Seven of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Four states experienced moderate activity; 13 states and New York City experienced low activity; 33 states experienced minimal activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** Nine states reported widespread influenza activity; Puerto Rico and 24 states reported regional influenza activity; the District of Columbia and 13 states reported local influenza activity; 4 states reported sporadic influenza activity; Guam reported no influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

